

Chair Jane Harman (D-CA)
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment
Committee on Homeland Security
Opening Statement – as prepared

***Is the Office of Intelligence and Analysis Adequately Connected to the Broader
Homeland Communities?***

September 29, 2010

Welcome, Under Secretary Wagner. This is a busy time of year for all of us, and the Subcommittee appreciates your appearance today to discuss how you are improving I&A's capabilities.

Today's hearing will focus on I&A's relationships with other parts of DHS – the other headquarters elements that need intelligence to carry out their own missions.

We want to know how you are communicating and sharing information with the Science & Technology Directorate, the National Operations Center and the National Programs & Protection Directorate -- among others. Are your relationships with these entities adequate?

Is intelligence adequately shared so that I&A accurately analyzes and produces timely and useful threat information about terror targets and tactics to its customers? As you know, your predecessor, Charlie Allen, prided himself on his connections throughout the government. He was a legend – and no one doubted his ability to work horizontally across the Federal government.

The issues this Subcommittee had with your predecessor related to vertical information sharing – something much improved during your tenure, under the leadership of your deputy, Bart Johnson.

Today, it appears that I&A is doing much better with vertical integration outside the Department – from I&A down to state and local law enforcement and back. I&A is also doing much better with vertical integration within the Department – from I&A to the intelligence elements inside DHS and back to I&A.

But this Subcommittee is concerned that I&A is not doing such a great job with horizontal integration across the Department – from I&A to the other DHS headquarters offices and back to I&A.

We've taken a look at the most recent version of the DHS Intelligence Enterprise Strategic Plan (which I might note is from 2008 and still has Charlie Allen's picture at the front).

It says that you, as the DHS Chief Intelligence Officer, are charged with leading and managing this Enterprise. This includes making sure that information is shared throughout the Department. What is your honest assessment of progress to date?

I want to assure you, Madam Under Secretary, that I am not interested in moving boxes around in an organizational chart. And I do not want to just add names of organizations to the list that composes the Enterprise.

What I am interested in is making sure that you have what you need to manage the critical relationships of I&A – both vertical and horizontal – and manage them simultaneously, without trading one for the other.

Today we hope to hear the good news stories of cooperation and collaboration. But we also want to hear about the areas that need some work. We want to work as your partner -- knowing that the better you do your job, the safer our communities will be.